

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 06176 061905Z

47

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-06 EB-04 DODE-00 CIAE-00 PM-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8635

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 6176

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, NATO, UR, XF, XG, XI

SUBJECT: DRAFT REPORT TO NATO MINISTERS ON MEDITERRANEAN
SITUATION (MED REPORT)

REF: STATE 242672

1. IN COURSE OF NOV 6 DRAFTING SESSION ON MED REPORT, COMMITTEE DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE TIME TO PARA 28 OF IS DRAFT, A PARAGRAPH WHICH IN ITS ORIGINAL FORM ELICITED FEW PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT (SEE PARA 20 REFTEL). WITH A NUMBER OF ALLIED REPS, PARTICULARLY THOSE FROM UK, FRANCE, ITALY, GREECE, AND TURKEY, ENTHUSIASTIC TO RESHAPE THE GENERAL THRUST OF THIS PARAGRAPH, IT EMERGED AT THE END OF THE SESSION AS FOLLOWS:
QUOTE. THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT BREZHNEV WILL AT LAST VISIT CAIRO IN JANUARY MARKS A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN SOVIET TACTICS-- ONE WHICH MAY OPEN A NEW PHASE IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. MOSCOW WISHES TO AVOID ANY FURTHER DETERIORATION IN ITS RELATIONS WITH EGYPT, WHICH REMAIN THE KEY FACTOR IN ITS PENETRATION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN. THIS REVISED MOSCOW APPROACH WELL SUITS PRESIDENT SADAT'S POLICY OF BENEFITTING FROM SOVIET POLITICAL SUPPORT IN THE SEARCH FOR A SOLUTION TO THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM. SADAT HAS
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PAGE 02 NATO 06176 061905Z

REITERATED THAT HIS

AIM IS NOT TO BREAK WITH THE SOVIET UNION BUT TO PUT RELATIONS ON A MORE NORMAL FOOTING AND TO MAINTAIN MORE BALANCE IN HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE TWO SUPER POWERS. HOWEVER, THE SNUB ADMINISTERED TO

MR. FAHMI LAST JULY WAS NO DOUBT INTENDED TO REMIND THE EGYPTIANS THAT THEY REMAIN DEPENDENT ON SOVIET GOODWILL. CAIRO DEPENDENCE ON SOVIET MILITARY EQUIPMENT, PARTICULARLY IN TERMS OF RE-SUPPLY, CERTAINLY LIMITS THE EGYPTIANS' FREEDOM OF MANEUVER. UNQUOTE.

2. MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT COMMENT ON THIS NEW PRODUCT. WHILE WE RECOGNIZE COMMITTEE HAS PRODUCED A LITERARY CAMEL, FORMULATIONS WHICH HAVE EMERGED FROM FIRST READING UNDER COMMITTEE PRACTICE ARE EXPECTED TO HAVE A CERTAIN PERMANENCE. THEREFORE, IF CHANGES TO THIS PARAGRAPH ARE NECESSARY, DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS WITH RATIONALE ON MAJOR FACTS AND ANALYSES CONTAINED THEREIN WILL BE MORE EFFECTIVE THAN PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS WHICH ARE PRINCIPALLY STYLISTIC OR OF OTHERWISE MINOR IMPORTANCE. IN ANY EVENT, TO BE USEFUL, COMMENTS ARE REQUIRED BY OOB NOV 7.
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